

## Treasury Department,

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., Jan'y. 19th., 1882

Sir:

Your letter of the 18th. inst. is received.  
I enclose you copies of correspondence forwarded by  
the Treasurer, and his request founded thereon, with  
their reference to me by the Secretary and my reply.  
The perusal of these papers, and especially an exami-  
nation of the Secretary's indorsement, will enable  
you to understand why I was unwilling to have my  
statement of a fact construed to be an official order.

Respectfully,

Horatio C. Burdett

Director

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.,

Supt. Mint of the U. S.,

Philadelphia, Pa.



98

Ch. M.

Wash. D.C.

January 19/82

H. F. Burchard

Enclosed copies of correspondence between the  
Supt. District, Wash. D.C.  
& Secretary of the Treasury  
with regard to the delivery  
of Silver Coins. Directed to  
give notice when any  
change in the Regular  
Supply is contemplated.

4 Enclosures, &  
2 Endorsements.

Recd. Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> 1882



Copy

Treasury of the United States.  
Washington, December 23, 1881.

Sir:-

I have the honor to enclose herewith, Department Circular No. 29, (1881) announcing that minor Coins of the denomination of one cent and three cents may be obtained at the Mint at Philadelphia; also letter of the Jewell City Bank, Jewell City, Kansas, of the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, and letter of the Acting Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint, of the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo, stating that the coinage of the three cent minor coin had been interdicted, and that they could be procured from Assistant Treasurers of the United States; also letter of the Superintendent of the Mint of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst. advising this office that coinage of the three cent nickel pieces had been interdicted by direction of the Acting Director of the Mint, under date of August 24<sup>th</sup>.

By an indorsement of the Treasurer, dated



March 26<sup>th</sup> 1881. upon a letter of the Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint, the attention of the Department was called to a similar change in the Regulations made without its knowledge.

I desire to express the hope that to avoid action upon the part of the Mint in seeming contravention of the Regulations of the Department, you will give direction that when changes affecting the business of the Department are to be made in the Regulations, they shall not take effect until authorized and promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Very respectfully

Jas. Gillilan

Treasurer U. S.

Hon. Charles F. Folger.

Secretary of the Treasury.



78<sup>2</sup> Copy of D.M. 81.1882

Washington, D. C.

December 23. 1881.

James Gilfillan  
Treasurer. U. S.

Changes in the regulations affecting the distribution of coin to be made by authority of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Treasury Department

Jan 5. 1882.

Respectfully referred to the Director of the Mint for his consideration.

Under the law the minor coins of the United States are delivered at the cost of the Mint in any of the principal cities of the United States at the direction of the Superintendent of the Mint and redeemed under such rules as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. For the convenience of the public all information relative to the purchase, exchange and redemption of these coins has been embodied in one circular issued by the Department and to avoid misleading the public as in the case within mentioned, the Director will please hereafter notify this office whenever any change in existing practice or regulation concerning the distribution of coin is contemplated.

E. B. D. P.

Chas. J. Folger.  
Secretary.



Copy

Mint of the United States at  
Philadelphia

Nov. 29. 1881.

Sir:-

Your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. enclosing draft for \$50.00 requesting a return in 3¢ and 1¢ pieces, has been received, and in reply I beg to state, that under orders from the Department, the coinage of 5 and 3¢ pieces has been interdicted. The same can be procured from any of the Assistant Treasurers of the U.S. cost of transportation to be paid by persons ordering the coin.

If you desire a return in 1¢ pieces it will be promptly made without cost of transportation to you. If not, your draft will be returned.

Yours respectfully

John D. Le Conte.

J. C. Pasterhorst

Acting Superintendent.

Cash<sup>r</sup> Jewell City B.K.

Jewell City Ka.



Copy

Jewell City Kansas.

Dec. 16. 1881.

James Giffillan,  
Treas. U.S.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> to hand, referring pointedly to your instructions on page 2 of your circular of July 11. 1881, for the issue of minor coins 3 and 19 pieces.

We respectfully state that on the 26<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 81, we sent a draft to the Mint at Phila, asking for 39 & 19 pcs. They advised us under date of Nov 29, that you had interdicted the coinage of 39 pcs. and that they could not send them, and returned our draft, but gave us the information that we could get them (39 pcs) from any Assistant U.S. Treasurer by paying the cost of transportation of the same.

This matter seems to be at variance with



your circular of July 11<sup>th</sup> as referred to in your letter  
of Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>

Please advise us how to get them (34) for surely your  
circular of July 11<sup>th</sup> and your orders to the Mint differ,  
as we have tried both ways to get them 34 pieces.  
Yours &c.

Jewell City Bank.

We enclose you the letter from the Phila Mint  
referred to in this letter.



Jewell City, Kansas.

Jewell City Bk.

Dec. 16. 1881.

Enc. letter Supt. Mint  
Phil. Nov 29. '81 in matter  
of coinage of 148 3/4 pcs.  
How can 3/4 pcs be  
obtained?

Offici. Treas. U. S.

Dec 19. 1881.

Respectfully referred to the  
Supt. U. S. Mint. Philadelphia  
with the remark that in  
view of the provisions of De-  
partment circulars. Nov 18.  
and 29. herewith, I am at  
a loss to understand the  
Acting Superintendent's letter  
of the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo enclosed.

James Gilfillan  
Treasurer U. S.



## Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., January 14, 1882.

Copy

Sir:-

I have the honor respectfully to return herewith the letter of the Treasurer of the United States and the accompanying papers and correspondence between the Treasurer and the Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint, which were referred to me for my consideration.

In regard to the matters thus referred, I desire to say that, as appears from the records of this office, no orders have been given by the Director of the Mint concerning the delivery of minor coins except by the enclosed circular,



issued by Director Linderman in the exercise of his legal discretion, and his letter of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1873, transmitting it to the Philadelphia Mint.

A suspension of the coinage of Union Coins was directed by the Secretary and a copy of his order, dated May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1875, is herewith enclosed.

Inquiry at this office would have ascertained that no order had been given by the present Director, or, in his absence, by the Acting Director, concerning the "delivery of Union Coins in the principal cities and towns of the United States" and that all orders for the suspension or



resumption of the minor coinage had been issued by, or with the approval of, the Secretary of the Treasury.

Had the Treasurer been aware of this, his request, as the Director believes, would not have been made for an order restraining the Director of the Mint from exercising the discretion specially and exclusively vested in him by Section 3,529 of the Revised Statutes.

Orders, copies of which are herewith-enclosed, have, however, been given by me to the Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint to discontinue the illegal redemption of minor coins at that Mint. Although the Coinage Act



of 1873 had omitted the Mints from the enumerated offices at which coins might be redeemed, subsequent circulars, signed by the Secretary or by the Treasurer, following the old form previously used, or an oversight doubtless, included the Mints among the places of redemption.

Upon calling Secretary Sherman's attention to this error and the provisions of Section 3,529 of the Revised Statutes, he concurred in the opinion that the redemption of Minor Coins at the Philadelphia Mint was not authorized by law. It is respectfully suggested that all confusion and apparent conflict in circulars or orders can be avoided if infor-



mination and notice of orders and regulations relating to the transaction of business of the Mints of the United States are communicated to the officers in charge, and to the public, by and through the proper Bureau specially vested with the control and supervision of the Mint service.

Respectfully,

Noratis C. Burchard,

Director.

Hon. Charles J. Folger,

Secretary of the Treasury,



[Letter One:]

[Abstract:] Encloses copies of correspondence... 98

Treasury Department,  
Office of the Director of the Mint,  
Washington, D.C.,  
January 19, 1882

Sir:

Your letter of the 18th inst. is received. I enclose you copies of correspondence forwarded by the Treasurer, and his request founded thereon, with their reference to me by the Secretary and my reply. The perusal of these papers, and especially an examination of the Secretary's indorsement, will enable you to understand why I was unwilling to have my statement of a fact construed to be an official order.

Respectfully,  
Horatio C. Burchard  
Director.

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.,  
Supt. Mint of the U.S.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.



[Letter Two:]

[Abstract:] Changes in the regulations affecting the distribution of coin... 782

Copy

Treasury of the United States  
Washington,  
December 23, 1881

Sir: -

I have the honor to enclose herewith Department Circular No. 29 (1881) announcing that minor Coins of the denomination of one cent and three cents may be obtained at the Mint at Philadelphia; also letter of the Jewell City Bank, Jewell City Kansas, of the 16th instant, and letter of the Acting Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint, of the 29th ultimo., stating that the coinage of the three cent minor coin had been interdicted and that they could be procured from Assistant Treasurer of the United States; also letter of the Superintendent of the Mint of the 21st inst. advising this office that coinage of the three cent nickel pieces had been interdicted by direction of the Acting Director of the Mint, under date of August 24th.

By an indorsement of the Treasurer, dated March 26th, 1881, upon a letter of the Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint, the attention of the Department was called to a similar change in the Regulations made without its knowledge.

I desire to express the hope that to avoid action upon the part of the Mint in seeming contravention of the Regulations of the Department, you will give direction that when changes affecting the business of the Department all to be made in the Regulations, they shall not take effect until authorized and promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Very respectfully,  
Jas. Gilfillan  
Treasurer U.S.

Hon. Charles J. Folger  
Secretary of the Treasury.



[Noted on back of letter two:]

Treasury Department  
January 5, 1882

Respectfully referred to the Director of the Mint for his consideration.

Under the law the minor coins of the United States are delivered at the cost of the Mint in any of the principal cities of the United States at the direction of the Superintendent of the Mint and redeemed under such rules as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury for the convenience of the public all information relative to the purchase, exchange and redemption of these coins has been embodied in one circular issued by the Department and to avoid misleading the public as in the call within mentioned the Director will please hereafter notify this office whenever any change in existing practice or litigation concerning the distribution of coin is contemplated.

Chas. J. Folger  
Secretary

E.B.D.  
P.



NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 125

[Letter Three:]

Copy

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia  
November 29, 1881

Sir: -

Your letter of the 25th inst. enclosing draft for \$50.- requesting a return in 3¢ and 1¢ pieces, had been received, and in reply I beg to state, that under orders from the Department, the coinage of 5 and 3¢ pieces has been interdicted. The same can be procured from any of the Asst. Treasurers of the U.S. cost of transportation to be paid by persons ordering the coin.

If you desire a return in 1¢ pieces it will be promptly made without cost of transportation to you. If not, your draft will be returned.

Yours respectfully,  
John S. LeConte  
Acting Superintendent.

J.C. Pastlethwaite  
Cash. Jewell City B.K.  
Jewell City Ka.



[Letter Four:]

[Abstract:] Enc. letter Supt. Mint Phil. Nov. 29 '81 in matter of coinage...

Copy

Jewell City Kansas  
December 16, 1881

James Gilfillan  
Treas. U.S.

Dear Sir: -

Your favor of Dec. 12th to hand referring pointedly to your instructions on page 2 of your circular of July 11, 1881, for the issue of minor coins 3 and 1¢ pieces.

We respectfully state that on the 26th of Nov. 81, we sent a draft to the Mint at Phila., asking for 3¢ & 1¢ pcs. They advised us under date of Nov. 29 that you had interdicted the coinage of 3¢ pcs. and that they could not send them, and returned our draft, but gave us the information that we could get them (3¢ pcs.) from any Assistant U.S. Treasurer by paying the cost of transportation of the same.

This matter seems to be at variance with your circular of July 11th as referred to in your letter of Dec. 12th.

Please advise us how to get them (3¢) for surely your circular of July 11th and your orders to the Mint differ as we have tried both ways to get them 3¢ pieces.

Yours &c.  
Jewell City Bank

We enclose you the letter from the Phila. Mint referred to in this letter.



NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 125

[Noted on back of letter four:]

Office Treas. U.S.  
December 19, 1881

Respectfully referred to the Supt. U.S. Mint, Philadelphia with the remark that in view of the provisions of Department circulars, Nov. 18 and 29 herewith, I am at a loss to understand the Acting Superintendents letter of the 29th ultimo. enclosed.

James Gilfillan  
Treasurer U.S.



[Letter Five:]

Copy

Treasury Department,  
Bureau of the Mint,  
Washington, D.C.,  
January 14, 1882

Sir: -

I have the honor respectfully to return herewith the letter of the Treasurer of the United States and the accompanying papers and correspondence between the Treasurer and the Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint, which were referred to me for my consideration.

In regard to the matters thus referred I desire to say that, as appears from the records of this office, no orders have been given by the Director of the Mint concerning the delivery of minor coins except by the enclosed circular, issued by Director Linderman in the exercise of his legal discretion, and his letter of April 22nd, 1873, transmitting it to the Philadelphia Mint.

A suspension of the coinage of Minor Coins was directed by the Secretary and a copy of his order, dated May 8th, 1875, is herewith enclosed.

Inquiry at this office would have ascertained that no order had been given by the present Director, or, in his absence, by the Acting Director, concerning the "delivery of minor coins in the principle cities and towns of the United States" and that all orders for the suspension or resumption of the minor coinage had been issued by, or with the approval of, the Secretary of the Treasury.

Had the Treasurer been aware of this, his request, as the Director believe, would not have been made for an order restraining the Director of the Mint from exercising the discretion specially and exclusively vested in him by Section 3,529 of the Revised States.

Orders, copies of which are herewith inclosed, have, however, been given by me to the Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint to discontinue the illegal redemption of Minor Coins at that Mint. Although the Coinage Act of 1873 had omitted the Mints from the enumerated offices at which coins might be redeemed, subsequent circulars, signed by the Secretary or by the Treasurer, following the old form previously used, or an oversight doubtless, included the Mints among the places of redemption.

Upon calling Secretary Sherman's attention to this error and the provisions of Section 3,529 of the Revised States, he concurred in the opinion that the redemption of Minor Coins at the Philadelphia Mint was not authorized by law. It is respectfully suggested that all confusion and apparent conflict in circulars or orders can be avoided if information and notice of orders and regulations relating to the transaction of business of the Mints of the United States are



communicated to the officers in charge, and to the public, by and through the proper Bureau specially vested with the control and supervision of the Mint service.

Respectfully,  
Horatio C. Burchard  
Director.

Hon. Charles J. Folger,  
Secretary of the Treasury.